

just turned up as a bonus). As *holonops* does not occur in the F₁ generation, it seems probable that it is a "simple recessive", but the numbers were below the 25% that would be expected in the F₂ hatch; however, the ab. gene may well be responsible for weakening the stock. It is strange that in the wild, this ab. is more frequently found in the males, while we only bred it in the females.

I sent several of the diseased larvae to Claude Rivers, whose department is the Unit of Invertebrate Virology, at Oxford University. The department found that they had died from Cricket paralysis virus, or a closely related virus, which reacted against cricket paralysis antiserum. I was told to keep a close watch on my other stocks as this virus seems to be able to infect a wide range of species of lepidoptera. Mr. Rivers gave me advice on ways to deal with this outbreak, and I accordingly purchased a large plastic dustbin, which I partly filled with a mixture of 10% solution of sodium hypochlorite, to 90% water. My cages, tubs and netting were all immersed in it for about an hour, and then thoroughly washed in clean water. Hopefully I have got rid of this virus, as none of my other stocks seem to have been infected up to the time of writing; however, I shall be making regular checks during the 1978 spring.

ABNORMAL ABUNDANCE OF MOTHS IN AN M.V. LIGHT TRAP IN JULY 1977. — While on holiday at Pont-ar-dulas, Llanafan Fawr, Builth Wells, Breconshire, from 9th-24th July, there were fantastic numbers of moths. So many gathered in the trap that we had to stop using it and rely on collecting from a sheet.

Having had to stop using the trap for several nights because of the vast numbers collected, the night of 12th July, 1977 was cooler and it was decided to use the trap again. In the morning there appeared to be a marked increase in the weight of the trap. It was therefore weighed on a spring balance and was found to be 18½ lbs. The trap contained 14 half egg trays, one of which was carefully removed with its complement of moths and placed in a polythene bag with a small quantity of killing agent. The moths were then counted. There were 611, nearly all noctuids. It would appear that, as the trays were equally loaded and in addition there was a thick layer in the bottom, the total number of moths present was about 10,000. All the moths were removed, the egg trays returned to the trap which was weighed. To our surprise it weighed 14 lbs. This suggests that there were 4½-5 lbs. of moths in the trap. Of the 10,000 moths, at least 7,000-8,000 were *Agrotis exclamationis* L. — Dr. H. G. PARKER, 2 Oaks Road, Kenilworth, Warwickshire, CV8 1GE.

CORRECTION

Reference "October in Scilly" by G. Summers (*antea* 90: 66), in line four down insert between "following species: " and "*Vanessa atalanta*": *Pararge aegeria* L.